

BUFFALO RANGER DISTRICT

INFORMATION SHEET

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The Buffalo Ranger District, Teton National Forest, is administered by the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture. Supervision of the 1,700,766 acres of this forest is by the Forest Supervisor with headquarters in Jackson, Wyoming. Administration of the Buffalo Ranger District is the responsibility of the District Forest Ranger whose headquarters are at the Blackrock Ranger Station near Moran, Wyoming.

History of the Buffalo Ranger District

The northern part of the district was once a part of the Yellow Stone Timberland Reserve created in 1891 and was administered by the United States Army. On February 22, 1897, President Cleveland, by executive order, created the Teton Forest Reserve. In 1907, the name Forest Reserve was changed to National Forest. In 1908, the Teton National Forest was created as a separate forest.

Physical Facts

The Buffalo Ranger District is located at the northern end of the Teton National Forest and contains approximately 765,505 acres of land. There are 209,000 acres in the Missouri River drainage and 556,505 acres in the Columbia River drainage. The district contains 250 miles of fishing streams and has 1,500 surface acres of crystal clear lakes. Elevations vary from 6,700 feet near the Moran Post Office to 12,165 feet at Younts Peak. Game animals on the district include elk, mule deer, both black and grizzly bears, mountain sheep and moose. There are also other small animals such as coyotes, bobcats, beaver, pine marten, red fox, squirrels, and conys. There are numerous birds, including the rare trumpeter swan, which summer on the district.

Administrative Procedure

Administration of all the resources on national forest land is governed by the Multiple-Use and Sustained Yield Law, approved by the 86th Congress, June 12, 1960. It directs and authorizes that the National Forests be managed under principles of multiple-use and to produce a sustained yield of products.

“Multiple-Use” means “the management of all the various renewable surface resources of the National Forest (Recreation, Range, Timber, Watersheds, and Wildlife), so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people. The objective of multiple-use management is to get the optimum combination of uses and services for the benefit of the American people. It means the harmonious combination of the different uses on a large area, such as a ranger district or national forest. It does not mean that all the uses of the forest will occur on the same acre.”

“Sustained yield of the several products and services” means “the achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high level annual or regular periodic out-put of the various renewable resources of the National Forest without impairment of the productivity of the land.”

Natural Resources

Watersheds, recreation, wildlife, range and timber are all represented on the Buffalo Ranger District.

Watersheds – Watersheds are the most important natural resource on the district. Management of this resource cannot be separated from recreation, timber or wildlife because the overuse or abuse of any one has a detrimental effect on watersheds. It, therefore, becomes the job of the Forest Service to manage, and general public to use the area in such a way that all resources are maintained on a “sustained yield” basis.

Water is not only important to Jackson Hole, but to the state and the nation as well. Water originating on the Buffalo Ranger District flows to Portland, Oregon, and New Orleans, Louisiana, a distance of 1,353 and 3,488 miles respectively from the original source.

Recreation – Recreation use on the Buffalo District is increasing yearly. In 1967, over 1,698,000 recreationists spent approximately 665,100 visitor days on the district. There is a wide variety of recreational opportunities on the district as shown by a breakdown of the 665,100 visitor days in 1967.

<u>Type</u>	<u>Visitor Days</u>
Camping	119,100
Picnicking	2,900
Swimming	2,900
Winter Sports	4,400
Hunting	34,400
Fishing	26,900
Hiking and Riding	83,200
General Enjoyment & Sightseeing	38,000
Other	353,300

In addition to regular roadside recreation such as camping, picnicking, etc., the district offers opportunity for wilderness experiences.

Wildlife – Large numbers and variety of big game species make the northern portion of the district a national attraction.

The wildlife resource is managed on a cooperative basis by the Wyoming State Game and Fish Department and the Forest Service. Laws, regulations and policies covering the propagation, protection and harvest of game animals

and fish are the responsibility of the state. Protection and proper management of the habitat on national forest lands is the responsibility of the Forest Service.

Elk – During late May and early June, vast numbers of elk move from the winter feed grounds near Jackson and begin their annual spring migration north. The bulls follow the retreating snow line until they arrive in the northern portion of the Jackson Hole country in the Teton Wilderness area or the southern portion of Yellowstone National Park. The cows follow approximately the same migration paths with a delay of two to three weeks in the vicinity of the Buffalo River and Pacific Creek, where the calves are born. When the calves become big enough to travel in late June, cows and calves continue north to mountain meadows. The regular Wyoming big game hunting season occurs during September and October. Approximately 1,500 elk are harvested from the Buffalo Ranger District. In October or November when temperatures drop and snow covers the forage, elk begin their fall migration back to the valley floor near Jackson where they remain until spring.

Moose – The Buffalo Ranger District provides both summer and winter range for approximately 1,000 head of moose. Moose are often seen in most of the large meadows, particularly during early morning and late evenings. Care should be exercised if approaching them, as cows become belligerent during calving season in the spring, and the bulls may be dangerous during the mating season in the fall. Moose are hunted during the fall big game season on a limited permit basis.

Bighorn Sheep – Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep frequent the high country of the eastern border of the Wilderness Area. Finding this rugged big game species is one of the greatest challenges to any hunter or photographer. Mountain Sheep are hunted under a special permit system, but only rams with a three-quarter, or better, horn curl are considered legal.

Bear – Bear are plentiful throughout the area. Two species are represented – the black and the much larger grizzly. Grizzlies are rare and seldom seen. Bears are hunted in the area during two seasons. A special hunt takes place in the spring just after the bears come out of hibernation. They are also hunted in the fall during the normal big game season.

Deer – Deer population varies considerably from year to year, depending upon the severity of the previous winter. Normally, winters are too rugged for the area to support large deer populations. However, a series of mild winters does permit numbers to increase so they are a common sight in some years. Only during the winter at lower elevations do these animals group together. In summer, they stay as singles or in pairs; the bucks usually at higher elevations along ridge tops or high rocky terrain.

Small Game – Numerous species of small game occur, such as, coyotes, snow-shoe rabbits, beaver, pine marten, otter, mink, red fox, and conys. An interesting variety of song birds dwell in the sub-alpine country district.

The Canada jay, or camp robber, is abundant. Ruffed and blue grouse may also be seen. Of particular interest is the trumpeter swan. Once almost extinct, this beautiful and graceful symbol of American Wilderness is increasing in numbers. Nesting pairs may be observed on remote areas such as Bridger Lake and Enos Lake inside the Teton Wilderness. The golden eagle is another of the larger birds which inhabits the Wilderness Area.

Fish – Most of the lakes and streams support fish. Because of the remoteness of the area, fishing has remained good. The principal species is the cut-throat trout, or native, as it is commonly called. Cut-throat and rainbow trout are common in the streams, while the lake species consist of cut-throat, brook, California golden, and rainbow trout.

Range – Forage produced on the district provides grazing for approximately 1,800 head of cattle on four cattle allotments. In addition, the range is utilized by approximately 10,000 elk during the summer months.

The use by domestic stock on the cattle allotments is regulated by means of a permit system. These permits allow only as many cattle to graze as the area can produce forage for on a “sustained yield” basis. This method allows removal of all harvestable forage and yet maintains a ground cover to protect the watershed.

Big game use is more difficult to control. However, the Forest Service, in cooperation with the Wyoming State Game and Fish Commission, is continually studying, evaluating, and managing this use by means of wildlife exclosures, migration studies and recommendations for big game harvests.

There is considerable acreage of useable, although inaccessible, range embraced within the boundaries of the Teton Wilderness. For the most part, this range is used extensively by the large herds of game animals that summer in the area and by transportation stock used by summer pack trips and fall hunting parties. Forage use by transportation stock is increasing each year. Problem areas have developed from concentration of use by both game animals and transportation stock. In connection with this problem, the Forest Service is dispersing the grazing use by transportation stock so there may be continued use without abuse.

One small cattle allotment and portions of two other allotments are located in the southern portion of the Teton Wilderness Area. These allotments were established prior to the time the Wilderness Area was classified as such. This limited amount of grazing is compatible with wilderness area management. There is little competition with big game animals or transportation stock for the available forage. Use by domestic stock is held to the carrying capacity of the suitable range within the allotments.

Timber – Approximately 134,530 acres of the district outside the Teton Wilderness are timbered. The major species in order of volume are Englemann spruce, lodgepole pine, white bark and limber pine, alpine fir, Douglas fir

and quaking aspen. Timber removal on the district has been accelerated from the early sixties to date. The present annual cut and sell quota is twelve million board feet a year. The long-range sustained cut is expected to be nine or ten million board feet per year. Most of this timber is utilized as 2" x 4" studs that are manufactured at Dubois, Wyoming, some fifty miles east.

The Forest Service strives to protect the timber stands from insects, disease and the ever present danger of fire.

TETON WILDERNESS AREA

The Teton Wilderness, a portion of the Buffalo Ranger District, consists of 562,500 acres. It was originally established as a Primitive Area in 1934, then reclassified as a Wilderness Area in 1955.

The principal desirability of this area as a wilderness is its unspoiled natural state and nearness to being primitive in all aspects. Trails, although effectively answering the need for protection and administration, are far from being dressed up in modernism and subtract nothing from general primitive aspects.

In addition to its own scenic charm, the Teton Wilderness is surrounded by other spectacular areas. To the north lies Yellowstone National Park; to the west the imposing grandeur of the Tetons; to the south Gros Ventre Range; and to the east the crest of the Absaroka Mountains and Upper Shoshone River.

Jackson Hole and the Upper Yellowstone River drainage, in which the Wilderness Area lies, have an interesting history of early explorations and fur trapping trade. This area today symbolizes the country as the early explorers found it.

The western portion of the Wilderness Area is a region of timbered ridges interspersed with mountain meadows and grassy slopes. Elevations range from 7,500 feet along the north and south boundaries, to 9,675 feet on Gravel Mountain. The eastern portion consists of high plateaus, ridges and large mountain meadows along the Yellowstone and Buffalo Rivers. Elevations range from 8,000 feet at the mouth of the North Fork of the Buffalo to 12,165 feet at Younts Peak, the highest point in the Teton Wilderness.

The topography of the area permits its being traversed without undue danger, discomfort, or inconvenience, by primitive modes of transportation. There are no roads and mechanized travel of any type is prohibited.

There are no improved campgrounds. The camper should remember he is in a wilderness area and will find no modern conveniences, only wood, water, grass, and the pleasure of a wilderness experience.

The major wilderness use is by hunters during the fall big game hunting seasons. However, summer packing for fishing, photography and general sight seeing is increasing each year.

There are three Forest Service patrol cabins located in the Wilderness. These cabins are equipped with two-way radios, first aid equipment and fire fighting tools. The radios and equipment in these cabins may be used to assist the public in an emergency.

Wilderness management objectives are to preserve, as nearly as possible, a primitive environment and still make available to the public the land resources that can be used without jeopardizing other resources and this primitive condition. This is accomplished by:

1. Encouraging all parties, both commercial and non-commercial, to register and submit planned itineraries.
2. Constructing and maintaining an adequate trail system for access throughout the area.
3. Patrol, interpretive services and clean-up in areas of heavy recreation use.
4. Research, evaluation and protection of range, watershed, wildlife, timber and recreation resources.
5. Cooperative studies with other agencies on wildlife habitat and populations.
6. Fire detection and suppression programs.

WILDERNESS COURTESY

If you go into the Teton Wilderness Area of the Teton National Forest, please leave it as you would like to find it – attractive, clean, natural and primitive, permanently preserving the natural environment.

The following rules of courtesy and sanitation will help provide for the safety and protection of yourself and other recreationists and preserve the primitive environment:

1. Avoid camping astride or alongside the trail.
2. Always leave a clean camp. All burnable refuse should be burned in the campfire and then covered with dirt. Tin cans and bottles should be buried or sacked and taken out for disposal in garbage cans at road head camps.
3. Use the sanitary facilities that are provided; otherwise, dig a pit and make sure it is properly covered with dirt when abandoned.
4. Springs, streams and lakes are used for drinking purposes. Please do not pollute them by unsanitary acts.

5. Hold pack and saddle stock at least 100 feet away from camp spots or open water.
6. Do not picket animals in the same spot day after day.
7. Do not blaze or deface trees.
8. Do not discharge fire arms in the vicinity of pack or saddle stock.
9. Ride along designated trails in a single file and at a walking gait.
10. Do not throw litter along the trail or at rest stops.
11. In yielding the right-of-way to animal traffic, avoid abrupt movements, loud talking or petting of passing animals. Pack strings normally have or are given the right-of-way over foot travelers or just horse and rider.
12. Avoid cutting corners on trail switchbacks.
13. Give right-of-way at first opportunity to faster traffic.
14. Be courteous to other travelers.
15. Report unsafe trail conditions, unfavorable sanitary conditions or any other misuse of the wilderness to the Forest Ranger, Blackrock Ranger Station, Moran, Wyoming or to any Forest Service employee you encounter in the back country.

POINTS OF INTEREST

1. Blackrock Ranger Station – Headquarters for the District Forest Ranger in charge of the Buffalo Ranger District. Please register here before entering the wilderness area. Written inquiries may be addressed to District Ranger, Buffalo Ranger District, Moran, Wyoming 83013.
2. Enos Lake, Hawks Rest and Fox Park Patrol Cabins – Forest Service personnel are available at these patrol cabins intermittently. Their duties are to contact the public. They can furnish additional information so the public can better enjoy traveling and can give special assistance when necessary. These cabins are equipped with first aid supplies, fire fighting tools and two-way radios and assistance is available to the public for emergency purposes.
3. Parting of the Waters – Trapper Osborne Russell, in 1835, followed Pacific Creek north to Two Ocean Pass. His journals give the first accurate description of this phenomenal parting of the waters. One branch of Two Ocean Creek forms the headwaters of Atlantic Creek, which flows into the Missouri River drainage. The other branch is the head of Pacific Creek,

which leads into the Columbia River. It is possible, barring certain falls, for a fish to start at the mouth of the Columbia River, travel upstream to its principal tributary, the Snake River, continue up that stream, enter Pacific Creek, by which it could reach the crest of the Continental Divide at Two Ocean Pass. Here, at the “Parting of the Waters”, it would begin the journey downstream; soon it reaches the Yellowstone River, down which it continues through Yellowstone Lake, then through the lower Yellowstone River and into the waters of the Missouri; for many hundred miles it may continue down this river before reaching the Mississippi through which it may finally reach the Gulf of Mexico – a total journey of over 5,800 miles.

4. Big Springs – Crater Lake lies in a cirque at the head of Soda Fork of the Buffalo River. Its outlet is underground where it emerges as a picturesque spring about one mile below the lake.

5. North Fork Falls – Spectacular rocky crevice through which the North Fork of the Buffalo River drops.

6. South Fork Falls – A gorge and shelf where the South Fork of the Buffalo River turns on edge and drops into a beautiful pool before continuing westward.

7. Holmes Cave – Discovered in September 1898 by Edwin B. Holmes, John H. Holland and Neil Matheson. It was first explored on September 6 – 9, 1905. It is not developed and entrance into it is at the individual’s own risk.

8. Mink Creek Burn – Started in Gravel Creek by campers on July 8, 1931, and burned 10,960 acres. The Fox Park burn of 1940 joined the other fire on the north and burned 4,000 acres.

9. Turpin Meadows – This is one of the principal road-head access points to trails leading into the eastern portion of the Wilderness Area.

10. Pacific Creek – A principal road-head access point to trails leading into the western portion of the Wilderness Area.

11. Huckleberry Hot Springs – Privately developed public campground, hot springs swimming facilities, store and trailer park under Forest Service permit.

12. Snake River Campground – Forest Service developed public picnic and campground containing 24 family camping units.

13. Lava Creek Campground – Forest Service developed public picnic and campground containing five family camping units.

14. Hatchet Campground – Forest Service developed picnic and campground for the public containing nine family camping units.

15. Four-Mile Meadows Picnic Area – Forest Service developed public picnic area.
16. Flagg Ranch – Privately developed motel, restaurant, gift shop, service station and trailer park, under Forest Service permit.
17. Jackson Lake Lodge – Resort and lodge developed by Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc., located in Grand Teton National Park.
18. Turpin Meadow Lodge – Dude ranch privately developed and operated, under Forest Service permit.
19. Togwotee Lodge – Lodge privately developed and operated, under Forest Service permit.
20. Brooks Lake – Developed Forest Service campground and important road-head access point to trail leading into the southeast corner of the Teton Wilderness. (Shoshone National Forest)
21. Yellowstone River – The Minnetaree Indian name was “Mi tse a da zi” meaning “Rockyellow River”. The term was used as early as 1798 by the English fur factor, David Thompson, but both the name and the river appear to have been unknown to Americans until 1805. Lewis and Clark came upon the stream’s mouth in their out-bound journey of exploration up the Missouri. The entry in their journal suggests that the name originated with earlier French as the Roche Jaune (yellow rock), or as we have it, Yellowstone.
22. Bridger Lake – Jim Bridger, the great mountain man, with Thomas Fitzpatrick in 1825, led a party of 30 trappers from Green River, through Jackson Hole to Yellowstone Park through this area. Bridger traveled this area a number of times in the next 35 years as a trapper and guide.
23. Younts Peak – Names for Harry S. Younts, a packer for the 1878 Hayden Survey into the Jackson Hole country. In 1880, Younts was appointed gamekeeper of the Yellowstone National Park, thus becoming the first national park ranger.
24. Nowlin Meadows – Named after Dan Nowlin, one of the early state game wardens.
25. Pendergraft Meadows and Peak – Named for O. A. “Slim” Pendergraft, an early day game warden and wilderness guide.
26. Snake River – Some local sources say it is called Snake because of its serpentine course. Others hold it was named for the Indians who lived along its banks. The latter seems plausible, although there is vagueness of the term Snake as applied loosely to the Shoshone, Bannock and Paiute tribes. One author says the name “Snake” means inland. A priest has declared the Indians were so named because, like reptiles, they dug food from the earth.

A third says these Indians ate serpents. A fourth declares that when such an Indian was asked the name of his tribe, he made serpentine movements, intended to suggest, not snakes, but basket weaving.

27. Coulter Creek – Named in honor of John M. Coulter who was a botanist for the Hayden Expedition of 1872. Mr. Coulter, of the University of Chicago, and Mr. Aven Nelson of the University of Wyoming, published "Manual of the Botany of the Rocky Mountain Region" in 1885 and "New Manual of Botany of the Central Rocky Mountains" in 1909. The latter is still used as a standard text.

28. Enos Lake – Named for an Indian exhibited at the San Francisco Exposition in 1915, at the age of 102 – he lived 4 years longer. It is said he was with Fremont in his explorations in 1842.

29. Atlantic Creek – This stream leads from the Parting of the Waters to the Atlantic side of the Continental Divide and on into the Yellowstone River.

30. Pacific Creek – The westward stream from the Parting of the Waters leading ultimately to the Pacific Ocean.

31. Randolph Mountain – Randolph was an early pioneer who homesteaded at Tracy Lake. He caused Ranger Rosencrans a lot of trouble in game-poaching days.

32. Arizona Creek – Named after Arizona George who wintered on Jackson Lake in 1888-89.

33. Buffalo Fork River – Undoubtedly named for a mountain variety of that species of animal.

34. Hidden Creek – Called Blind Creek by the old timers.

35. Big Game Ridge – This ridge extends from the Teton Wilderness into Yellowstone Park. According to the earliest records available, Big Game Ridge has long been a favorite summer range for elk and other big game animals.

36. Mt. Leidy and Leidy Lake – Named for Joseph Leidy, the paleontologist for the Snake River division of the second section of the Hayden expedition in 1872.

37. Rosie's Ridge – Named for Rudolph Rosencrans, son of Austria's chief forester. He was lured to America and Wyoming after seeing Buffalo Bill Cody's wild west show and hearing Cody's vivid tales of America's frontier. After passing the new forest ranger examination in 1904, he was appointed ranger of the Yellowstone Forest Reserve by President Teddy Roosevelt. He laid out and built two cabins on the banks of the Buffalo River, one for his home and one for the Blackrock Ranger Station. His home is still being used

to house summer employees. The Ranger Station was moved to the Teton National Forest Headquarters in Jackson in 1968 to be preserved as a VIS center. Rosie, now in his middle nineties, still lives in Jackson, Wyoming.

DISTRICT STATISTICS

Acreage Distribution – Area by Counties

Park County	174,930 acres
Fremont County	87,408 acres
Teton County	<u>503,167 acres</u>
Total	765,505

Drainage

Pacific Ocean	556,505 acres
Atlantic Ocean	209,000 acres

Ownership

Federal	761,665 acres
Private	3,800 acres
State	40 acres

Other

Wilderness	565,291 acres
Non-Wilderness	200,214 acres

Grazing – Four established C&H allotments.

<u>Allotment Name</u>	<u>Approximate Number of Cattle</u>
Blackrock-Spread Creek	1,300
Cub Creek	100
Lava Creek	260
Pacific Creek	<u>100</u>
Total	1,760

Recreation – Based on 1967 Recreation Statistical Report

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Visitor Days</u>
Camping	119,100
Picnicking	2,900
Swimming	2,900
Winter Sports	4,400
Hunting	34,400
Fishing	26,900

Hiking and Riding	83,200
General enjoyment and sightseeing	38,000
Other	<u>353,300</u>
Total	665,600

Type of Recreational Facilities Provided

Facilities – Forest Service Operated

Snake River Campground – 24 family units – Highway #89/287
 Lava Creek Campground – 5 family units – Highway #26/287
 Hatchet Campground – 9 family units – Highway #26,287
 Four-Mile Meadow Picnic Area – Highway #26/287
 Turpin Meadows Campground (Undeveloped) Old Buffalo River Highway.
 Togwotee Overlook – Highway #26/287
 Picture Turnout – Highway #26/287

Resorts – Privately owned and operated, under Forest Service special use permit for public use.

Flagg Ranch	Huckleberry Hot Springs
Heart Six Ranch	Turpin Meadow Ranch
Togwotee Lodge	

Special Uses – The Buffalo District has approximately 260 special use permits.

79 Commercial outfitters (summer packing and big game hunting)
 5 Resort type
 19 Summer Homes
 157 Various power lines, radio beacons, water transmissions and storage, pasture, fences and mineral leases.

*Letter to Mr. Dennis G. Smith, Buffalo RD, dtd. January 24, 1979
from G. Val Simpson, District Forest Ranger, Cascade RD*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRUCULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Cascade Ranger District
Cascade, Idaho 83611

1680

January 24, 1979

Mr. Dennis G. Smith
Buffalo Ranger District
Box 278
Moran, WY 83013

Dear Dennis:

I am very interested in your historical project whereby you are attempting to compile information for a Buffalo Ranger District history on the Teton National Forest. I hope I may be of some help in filling in some of your data gaps.

I worked in a temporary position on the Buffalo Ranger District in the summer of 1945. The job I had was probably the most enjoyable job I have had since I have been with the Forest Service. My job that summer was packing supplies and equipment to the various lookouts, guard stations, patrol cabins, etc., on the Buffalo District. At that time, there were lookouts on Huckleberry Mountain and Bald Mountain. In addition, there was a temporary lookout on Big Game Ridge, one on a peak out between Soda Fork and the South Fork, in addition to permanent guard stations at Hawk's Rest, Enos Lake, and Brown's Meadow. In most cases, I would utilize two saddle horses and two pack horses. I would usually make one trip supplying one or two individuals and then return to the Black Rock Ranger Station and load up for another trip. This continued almost the entire season with breaks only for one or two small fires and several days spent temporarily on the lookouts relieving the regular lookouts.

Some of the other employees on the District that summer included Bill Daniels, Pete Fuez, Carol James, George Nethercott, Vaughn Ward, Gordon Green, Andy Ables, Dudley Hayden and Jack Teavybaugh. The previous summer an old time employee, Tony Gras, had died of a heart attack on the Box Creek Trail on the way to Enos Lake. The Ranger during this period of time was Dana Cox. Dana was really good to work for. Later he transferred to the Regional Office in Region 5, California.

My next contact with the District was in 1950, when I was appointed Acting Ranger on the Buffalo Ranger District. I received an appointment as a Range Conservationist on the Hoback District on the Teton in July of 1948. I worked on that District for two years for

Ranger Gray Reynolds. During the spring of 1950, Tom VanMeter from Operations in the Regional Office and Forest Supervisor Art Buckingham made a decision to split the Buffalo Ranger District and I was fortunate enough to be appointed Ranger (Acting Ranger) on a portion of the District. After Dana Cox transferred to California, they appointed Verland Taylor Ranger; as Acting Ranger on the District under some kind of a war type appointment for a short period of time. There were some problems developed during this period of time and Verland Taylor was released. Charlie Dibble, who had been Ranger on the Hoback District, and at various times Ranger on every other District on the Teton Forest, was appointed Ranger on the Buffalo District.

During the spring of 1950, as mentioned, the District was divided. All of the country north of the old Togowotee Pass Highway, consisting of approximately 1000 square miles, or 656,000 acres, was given to me, and the remainder of the District, that country south of the highway was given to Charles Dibble. At the same time the livestock was divided up; I had 25 head of horses and mules, and Charlie was given one saddle horse and one mule. The facilities at headquarters were divided up with Charlie Dibble having charge of everything inside the yard fence, which consisted of the Ranger Station, the garage and old office building, while I had everything outside the yard fence which consisted of the bunkhouse, barn, warehouse, tent frames and horse pasture.

This was an unusual situation and extremely touchy. I received a promotion to GS-7 when I was appointed Acting Ranger. In addition to the area north of the highway I was also given the responsibilities for the range work on the entire District. At that time we had a grazing allotment in Lava Creek, with Walt Fuez as a permittee; we had an allotment on Spread Creek, the largest allotment, with several permittees, among whom were Amasa James, Cliff Hanson, and several others. We had another allotment north of the Togowotee Pass country, this was operated by Albert Angle, who at that time owned Togowotee Pass Lodge. There was another allotment in Pacific Creek.

In exercising my memory and trying to think back to those days when I was on the Buffalo Ranger District, I have difficulty remembering some of the names of the people who worked for me, but surprisingly, I can remember most of the names of the horses and mules. I know this will be of no value for your history but among the horses and mules that were assigned to me on the Buffalo District were Robin, Jakey, Moseby, KO, Stranger, Rusty, Susy-Q, Mike, Baldy, Prince, Bell, Bird, Candy, Bull, Jack, Banjo, Sirock, and three mules, Bongo, Bosko, and Tillicum. In addition, Bill Daniels had three horses of his own, Star, Cheyenne and Red Cloud that were also used on the Ranger District.

Employees that I had on the District during that first summer were Darryl Hoffman and LeRay Mauss, who worked on trails during the entire summer. In addition, a Mr. Carlson was my lookout on Huckleberry Mountain, Bill Daniels at Hawk's Rest, Pete Fuez, Enos Lake, Jack Teavybaugh, a Mr. Scouton, and Mr. Woolstenhulme from the Teton Basin Country, and Ed Seiver who had moved into the country from Tennessee.

As mentioned earlier, I received the promotion and appointment to the Buffalo Ranger District on the first day of July, 1950. I operated in that position until March 17, 1952. At

that time, I was transferred to Chamberlain Basin on the Payette National Forest in Idaho. During the field seasons of 1950 and 1951 I did accomplish the complete suitability mapping and determined some carrying capacities of all of the allotments that were then in existence on the Buffalo District. This was the first range allotment analysis on the District. Other than that, it seems as though I was one of the higher paid packers in the Region, since that seemed to be where I spent most of my time.

It seemed as though there was one trip after another into the Teton Wilderness area transporting people from the Regional Office. One trip I recall was with Dr. Rasmusson and Bus Croft into the Thorofare and the Upper Yellowstone River Country. Another trip with Dr. Olaus Murie, Dr. John and Frank Craighead, Dr. Margaret Aultman from the New York Zoological Society, Art Buckingham, Forest Supervisor, Art Nord, Tom VanMeter, and on and on. I enjoyed every minute of every day spent on the Buffalo Ranger District and thinking back they are some of my most enjoyable days.

During the time I worked on the Buffalo Ranger District our organization on the District consisted of the District Ranger and at that time no other permanent employees. There was no Assistant Ranger, no District Clerk, no one other than temporary summer personnel. The temporary summer personnel in most cases would return year after year after year. One of the most memorable people I had working for me was T. W. (Bill Daniels. Bill was a real old time mountain man and I could relate numerous stories about Bill. A third grade graduate, he was self-trained and could identify and give the scientific name to most of the plants and trees occurring in that country. In addition, he was an artist, wrote numerous stories for Sports Afield, Outdoor Life magazines and other Western type publications. Perhaps sometime I will have the opportunity to relate some of the tales about Bill Daniels.

Another old character we had who was a valued employee and very interesting was Pete Fuez. At one time Pete and Bill got cabin fever, this was in the winter of 51, and argued about a Forest Service sleeping bag that Pete had left at Hawk's Rest. Finally, Pete got so upset he took out on snowshoes, went to Hawk's Rest, got the sleeping bag, and returned and threw it at Bill three days later. In other words, Pete went from Black Rock to Hawk's Rest and returned on snowshoes in the middle of the winter in three days time.

Another outstanding character was Jack Teavybaugh. These old timers that returned year after year would work for the Forest Service during the summer time and in several cases they would feed elk for the Fish & Game Dept. at Black Rock and the Gros Ventre. Others of these old timers would spend the winters trapping fur bearing animals back in the Teton Wilderness area. At that time we would make arrangements with these people and let them stay at our old patrol cabins that we had scattered throughout the area.

I don't know if any of the old patrol cabins still remain, but at the time I was on the District we had ten of these cabins which made it extremely convenient and nice to travel that wilderness country. In most every case, in addition to the cabin, there would be a small fenced pasture from three to ten acres in size. The location of these cabins were Brown's

Park, Two Ocean Pass, Lower Soda Fork, Upper Soda Fork, Fox Park, Hawk's Rest, Enos Lake, Thorofare, Gravel Creek, and one on Pilgrim Creek.

After I was transferred from that District in March of 1952, Jack Dienema was appointed Ranger on the District. Shortly after Charles Dibble retired and the District was recombined into the one entire Buffalo District. About the time of recombination, the District was upgraded to a GS-9. During the two years on that District, we had only two fires. One small fire on Box Creek, and a second fire up near Togowotee Pass, which started as a result of a tanker truck running off the highway, exploding and spreading fire, both fires were easily controlled. However, during this period of time, there were two hunters killed on the District and one hunter badly wounded. As part of my job I would make inspection of the hunting camps that were located on the District and during this period of time attempted to get some kind of control over the locations of the camps and how they were being utilized. The special use permit hunting camp situation was one of the tougher jobs on the District at that time and needed controls put on them. During this period of time we had between 45 and 50 hunting camps operating under special use permits on the District. Some of the hunting camp operators at that time and some of their locations may be of interest to you. I have a copy of an old inspection I made in the fall of 1951 and it's possible that you may still have a copy of this old inspection in your files. This inspection showed the name of the special use permittee and also the location of his camp. The conditions I found and the action taken at the time are in the report. Should you want this information, I am enclosing a copy.

An item that may be of interest, at the time I went to work on the Buffalo District for the first time in a temporary position, was the requirement of the job that I supply two head of horses. I purchased one horse from Rip Van Winkle, who was Assistant Forest Supervisor at the time. I paid \$35.00 for this sorrel horse named Happy and he was not too bad a horse. The other horse I bought for \$25.00 from a local rancher, a black horse with a swastika brand and I named him Adolf Hitler. Although I met the requirements of the job and owned two horses I did not use them too much that summer, preferring to use the Forest Service horses which were in most cases better livestock than the ones I had furnished.

At the end of the season I sold the horses, one to a hunter, old Adolf, for \$15.00 to be used as bear bait during the hunting season, and the other horse I sold to a pack outfitter for the same price I had paid for him originally, \$35.00. During the winter I received a letter from Dana Cox and also a purchase order which was made out for a rental payment for the use of the two horses. I was paid \$5.00 a month for each horse for a three month period so I received a check that winter for \$30.00 rent. At the time I was going to college and in those days \$30.00 went a long ways. At the end of the summer of 1950, a new policy was started which paid per diem. We were allowed \$1.60 a day for each day that we were away from our official station on the District. I prepared an expense account for the entire summer, and I had 70 days that first season away from the station. That winter I received a per diem check for \$112.00.

During the summer of 1950 Bill Daniels and myself spent quite a bit of time completing the cabin at Hawk's Rest. I packed many pack horse loads of sheeting and asphalt shingles from Black Rock to Hawk's Rest and we completed the roof on the building. We concentrated our efforts on the north room leaving the south room unfinished and utilizing it for storage. I packed a large cook stove to Hawk's Rest and we installed this stove. We built two wooden bunks in the Hawk's Rest Cabin but it was not occupied until the year of 1951. The first time we went to Hawk's Rest in 1951 we discovered the old cabin had been broken into by a bear, apparently a grizzly; all of our supplies, equipment, etc., that had been left in the cabin were completely destroyed. An old round top radio that operated on batteries was completely demolished, all of the food stuffs left were scattered all over the floor of the cabin, fishing poles destroyed, gas lanterns, etc. I decided to move the guard in the Hawk's Rest cabin even though it was not completely finished, rather than try to clean up the old cabin. That summer, the old cabin was dismantled and we burned it up in the fall of 1951.

The guard at Hawk's Rest in the summer of 1951 was a student from Utah State University named Howard Clark, originally from Elizabethtown, New Jersey. Howard looked and acted like a cowboy and told everyone he was from Tensleep, Wyoming. He was an excellent hand with horses and appeared to be an old Wyoming native.

In addition, other employees I had that summer were Joe Skelley, a student from Utah State and Ed Evatz. Ed Evatz is with the Bureau of Land Management in Washington, D.C. now. Ed Evatz was from Carbon County, Utah and when he purchased his hunting license, out of state, the dealer asked where he was from, and when he said Carbon County, the dealer sold him a resident license. We kidded Ed about that all summer and he was nicknamed The Sheriff of Carbon County since he was such a law abiding citizen.

In addition to the three people named, that summer I also had Darryl Hoffman and LeRay Mauss in addition to another trail worker named Russ Lave, also Mr. Carlson on Huckleberry Lookout, of course Bill Daniels, Pete Fuez, the old timers.

To give you an idea of the organization we had at the time, during the winter of 1950 and '51 the entire organization of the Teton N.F. consisted of 11 people. They were Forest Supervisor Art Buckingham, Ass't Supervisor, Rip Van Winkle, Administrative Assistant, who I believe at that time was Glenn Talbott, one girl in the office, Rangers A. K. Woogenson on the Gros Ventre, Gray Reynolds on the Hoback, Douglas Wadsworth on the Jackson District, Charles Dibble and myself on the Buffalo District, Mel Hoffman Road C&M Foreman and Bob Newcomer in charge of an insect control job. Things have changed tremendously since those days.

We had two jobs on the District that were considered pretty high priority jobs at the time – one job was to go to Two Ocean Pass as early as we possibly could in the spring, and make sure that the parting of the waters was still in good shape and had not been altered by any trees falling or any problems occurring during the winter. Another job we would do every spring as soon as we got to Brown's Meadow was to maintain the grave on the north side of Brown's Meadow. You may be interested, the occupant of the grave at Brown's

Meadow was an old fellow named Thomas Brown who froze to death on a bear hunting trip into that country. I believe he froze to death in late October of 1891 and he was buried at Brown's Meadow by his hunting partner.

I might relate a few incidents that may be of interest, I don't know that they are particularly historical. I recall in the summer of 1951 I was sent to New Mexico to fight fire in the Gila Wilderness. At the time Gene Hoffman packed Mr. Carlson to Huckleberry Lookout for me and gave him an orientation and got him settled down at the Lookout. When I returned from New Mexico I went hurriedly through my mail and I discovered that Butch Zuberbuhler from the R.O. and Art Buckingham, Forest Supervisor, were going to make an inspection trip to Huckleberry Lookout on the following day.

I was worried and concerned about what conditions they would find at the Lookout since I had not had an opportunity to place the lookout. That evening I took my saddle horse from Black Rock and drove to the Flag Ranch and rode up to the lookout arriving at the Lookout just at the end of day. It was lucky that I went there because Mr. Carlson had the shutters down on the east side and on the south side of the lookout, the two sides that look into the Forest, and the north side and west sides were open that looked into the National Parks. I asked why the shutters had been let down and he said because the sun bothered him.

We got the shutters up, I spent considerable time with him getting him oriented and prepared for the inspection the next day. I instructed Mr. Carlson to act like I hadn't been up to the lookout and so I returned to Black Rock arriving about 2:00 in the morning. I left again about 6:00 in the morning, met the inspectors, rented horses at the Flag Ranch and we rode to the lookout. All this time I acted like this was my first trip to the lookout that year, but shortly after we were there the inspectors asked what I was doing there the evening before. I asked them how they knew I was there. They said the entry in the lookout log book showed I was there the evening before. I learned at this time not to try to hide anything from an inspector.

Another incident: I had Pete Fuez working that summer as Lookout on Big Game Ridge. We had a tent set up down at the base of the mountain and Pete would ride a saddle horse up to the top of Big Game Ridge on the south end and watch for fires during the day time. After Pete had been there for a period of time he submitted a grocery order and at the time I took the order he also asked for a bottle of whiskey. I gathered his order, everything except the whiskey. When I took the order to Pete, I arrived early in the afternoon and Pete was up on the mountain so I left the supplies in the tent and went on to Fox Park. About a month later I was hauling another order up to Pete and I went up on the point to visit him for the first time since he had been out that summer. The first thing I noticed was that Pete's one and only big tooth in the front of his mouth was missing. I asked Pete what happened to this tooth and he told me he pulled it out. It began to ache and eventually it got so bad that Pete got up during the middle of the night, he sterilized his knife, and slit up the sides of the tooth and then actually removed the tooth with a pair of pliers. (That's the same as you would remove an elk tooth). I asked Pete if it didn't hurt, and he says, "By God, it hurt." And that was why he wanted that bottle of whiskey he ordered in the first

place that I hadn't got to him. Pete eventually forgave me but I felt bad about the bottle of whiskey and his aching tooth for a long time.

Another incident in the fall of 1951, was after the first of November and the Forest Supervisor had received some complaints about two of the special use permittee hunting camp operators that were fighting with each other up in the Hawk's Rest vicinity. The report was that Leonard Morris and Max Wilde had both camped in practically the same spot on Bridger Lake and were fighting with each other over this camp location. Forest Supervisor, Art Buckingham sent me up to Bridger Lake to see if I could straighten out the problems these individuals had.

I arrived at Hawk's Rest about 2:00 in the afternoon on about the fifth day of November of 1951, after having spent the night before at Enos Lake. I went immediately to locations of these camps and both of the permittees had packed up and completely left the country. I was completely alone in the country and since it was too late in the day to start back I elected to stay at Hawk's Rest that evening. I took my fishing pole and began fishing in Bridger Lake but it was so extremely cold that every time I would bring the line back through the eyes on the pole the water would freeze solid and stop the line. After breaking the ice loose with a matchstick several times, I finally give up.

The temperature continued to drop and looking up the Thorofare big black clouds were boiling and rolling down through the country. By 5:00 that evening one of the worst blizzards I've ever seen hit and by the time I got up the next morning at daybreak the snow was 18 inches deep in front of the cabin at Hawk's Rest. When I finished breakfast I packed two horses I had with some supplies that had been left at Hawk's Rest. I got on my saddle horse and started out. When I left the trees and started through the pasture the wind was blowing terribly hard, the snow was drifting and it was impossible to see. After about 30 minutes my feet began to freeze, my hands were freezing, my ears and nose, and suddenly I realized that in 30 minutes time I hadn't got out of the horse pasture yet. I turned to go back to the cabin and one of the horses broke loose and disappeared in the snowstorm.

So I returned to Hawk's Rest cabin, took the shutter off the door, went back in the cabin and started a fire. I went back out and unpacked the one pack horse that I still had and returned to the cabin. I kept checking on the weather all day and about 2:00 that afternoon I finally saw a break in the weather and I could actually see past the horse pasture to the timber clear across the Yellowstone Meadows. I immediately closed the cabin and took off for Black Rock. I got down in the pasture and found my other pack horse standing behind a large rock in the pasture. I tied him on and took off. Going across Yellowstone Meadows I was hitting drifts in excess of four feet deep, but in between the drifts would be patches of country where there would be no snow or very little snow. It was still snowing but the wind had quit blowing. I went on to Two Ocean Pass and when I reached the pass it was practically dark. As I was crossing the pass one of my pack horses rolled over completely but regained his feet, didn't disturb the pack enough that I even got off my saddle horse.

I was extremely cold and could only think of making it to the Enos Lake cabin. In those days there were no helicopters and no other method of get out of the country but the best you could. I sorta planned that if I didn't make it out of that country I would hole up and eat my horses. I even had the order selected in which horse I would eat first and which horse I would eat last.

In going through Two Ocean Pass I looked ahead and I could see a large bull moose who appeared to be right in the middle of the trail. I was fighting snow through Two Ocean Pass in excess of 30 inches and I wasn't in any mood to mess around with any moose. I had a 32 Winchester Special saddle gun and I removed this from the scabbard and figured if the moose didn't move out of the way I would shoot him between the eyes and keep right on going. As I approached the moose he did move out of the way about six feet and I went past with my pack outfit.

I arrived at the Enos Lake cabin about midnight and when I stepped off my saddle horse the snow was about two feet deep in front of the cabin. I tried to unpack and unsaddle my horse but the cold was so extreme I couldn't make my hands work. I went into the cabin and got a fire started and thawed out. After getting warmed up I went back out and unpacked the pack horses and my saddle horse. I moved all of the saddle gear into the Enos Lake cabin and turned the horses loose. I figured I would return to Enos Lake in the spring to retrieve my saddle and pack gear.

The next morning when I left the cabin both pack horses and saddle horse were standing in the exact place I had unpacked them, directly in front of the cabin, the previous night. So, since they were still there I repacked, resaddled and left for Black Rock.

After I hit the timber I discovered that the trail was well broken and, in fact, well packed from elk migrating out of the country. During that day I saw several hundred head of elk in the trail and on both sides of the trail all heading south. When I arrived within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of the old Togowotee Pass Highway, and things were looking much cheerier, I spotted a spike elk in the trail in front of me and decided that would be a good piece of meat for the winter. I stepped off my saddle horse and shot the spike elk in the trail. I turned the two pack horses loose and sent them on down the trail ahead and after I dressed out the spike elk I put my lariat around its neck and skidded it on down to the highway. I cached it in the barrow pit and headed on into Black Rock looking for my pack horses on the way. I found the two pack horses buried in the haystack of a hunting camp about five miles out of Black Rock and retrieved them and eventually made it home.

During the winters of 1951 and 1952 Bill Daniels stayed in the bunk house at Black rock and fed a small herd of elk, about 250 head, that had congregated at Black Rock. In addition, there was about 50 head of moose that were also fed. The year previous, the Fish & Game Department had constructed a new hayshed out south of the station. Bill was supposed to feed three pounds of hay per day per elk, for which he was paid \$5.00 a day. Bill felt that since the elk would survive on three pounds he would invariably double the ration. As a result the elk that wintered at Black Rock usually were much better looking than any of the rest of the elk you would see in the country.

One February I snowshoed into Black Rock and spent the day with Bill feeding elk. Bill was practically out of meat and was almost to the point of boiling elk antlers. That afternoon, Bill decided it was time to butcher. I reminded Bill that he was breaking the law but he told me that "By God, they were his elk and he would shoot one if he needed one!" Bill raised a window in the bunk house and took his old 30.06, leaned it on the window sill and sighted in on a young yearling cow standing about 100 yards from the bunk house. He pulled the trigger, the yearling cow jumped, looked around and trotted back into the main herd. In the meantime I saw one drop about 250 yards further out. Bill explained he had missed and I assured him he had dropped one. We went out to see and found that Bill had hit and killed probably the oldest cow in the entire herd. Bill was good about it though and we dressed out the elk and Bill eventually consumed the entire animal.

During the time I was Ranger on the Black Rock Ranger District I became very good friends with Rudolph Rosencranz, whom I am sure you have reams of history collected on him already. One of my jobs, assigned to me by Forest Supervisor, Art Buckingham, was to watch for Rosey when he went downtown in Jackson and if he drank too much, to help him home, make sure he had a fire in his stove and his house was warm.

Rosey would go on a big party on December 8th of every year to celebrate his birthday. His birthday actually was on December 7th, but Rosey changed his day of celebration to the 8th out of respect to the wives and mothers of the victims of Pearl Harbor which had occurred on December 7th.

Rosey's memory of the Black Rock country was extremely keen and although he had been blind for many, many years, we often discussed the various trails and Rosey, in talking about the country, visualized it the way it actually was right at the present time.

He told me one story about meeting Buffalo Bill Cody at the mouth of Pass Creek or Open Creek. They camped together that night and he said that Buffalo Bill Cody had a keg of whiskey with him. They drank freely that night, and did a lot of visiting. During this time Cody mentioned a place called Blind Basin on Hidden Creek and said he would sure like to see this. Rosey said he would take him there the next day, since Rosey had built a trail into Blind Basin leaving the first 100 to 200 yards of the trail unbuilt. The next day they filled a bottle of whiskey from the keg and rode into Blind Basin. Rosey said they sat out in the middle of the basin, drank whiskey, watched deer and elk in the meadow and big horn sheep up on the rim and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. He said Buffalo Bill Cody turned to him and said, "Rosey, if I had my life to live over, I would rather be a mountain man like you than a plainsman like me."

I could ramble on for a long period of time with some of these old tales and incidents that occurred while I was on the District, but since I do not know if they would be relevant to your history, I will quit at this time.

In conclusion, I will list the Rangers that I know were on the Buffalo District. In most cases I do not know the time span or dates they were there but perhaps you can fill in those gaps.

Rudolph Rosencranz was the first Ranger on the District and I believe he started in 1905 and went blind in 1923. Later on, a Ranger named Sonny Allen was on the District. Sonny left the Forest Service and moved over to American Falls where he farmed for a short period of time and then returned to that country as a Ranger on Teton National Park. Dana Cox, I believe, succeeded Sonny Allen, after Dana was Verland Taylor, Charlie Dibble and myself, and then Jack Dienema. I believe A. K. Wogenson went on the District after Jack Dienema transferred.

As stated at the start of my letter, I am very interested in your project and I would very much appreciate a copy of your history when you complete the project.

Sincerely,

G. VAL SIMPSON
District Forest Ranger

Enclosure

Rough Draft Letter dtd. 3/8/79 to Mr. Dennis B. Smith, Buffalo RD, from G. V. Simpson, District Forest Ranger, Cascade RD

ROUGH DRAFT
3/8/79
GVSimpson/cb

Mr. Dennis B. Smith
Buffalo Ranger District
Box 278
Moran, WY 83013

Dear Dennis:

I am enclosing several xerox copies of pictures taken while I was on the Black Rock Ranger District. On the reverse of the pictures I have a description and explanation. You are welcome to use any of these pictures and I will supply the originals or negatives for any you choose.

I will attempt to answer a couple of your questions in your last letter, and hope the answers may be of some help to you.

Yellowstone Cabin was constructed between the years 1948 – 1952. Most of the work was done by Bill Daniels with a lot of help from Pete Fuez and Jack Teavybaugh. When I came to the District in 1950 the cabin had been built up to the square, and the roof was put on in 1951, windows, doors and most of the finish work completed by 1951. The old cabin which was located just to the north of the present cabin, approximately 30 or 40 feet was in extremely bad shape and it was torn down and burned up in the fall of 1950. The old cabin must have been constructed at least 45 years prior to this time or possibly even earlier than that, in connection with the old Yellowstone reserve. In one of the pictures I have of the Yellowstone Patrol cabin, you can see a corner of the old cabin to the left of the picture. The old cabin had an overhang porch, one fairly large room and on the back was a small storage area that had a separate entrance. At the time I was on the District the old storage area on the back of the cabin was full of old groceries, left over from the Castle Creek fire which had occurred about 1940. Most of the old groceries were in one gallon cans, several of them had actually rusted through and Bill Daniels used most of those old worthless groceries to bait grizzly bear. The rotten ketchup came to be the most attractive bait. Bill would take two gallon cans about half way between Hawk's Rest and Bridger Lake and dump them out on the trail. Each night about 6:00 Bill would do this for about two weeks and, one evening as he was on his way to dump the ketchup, an extremely large grizzly bear was raiding at the spot and Bill killed the bear with one shot from his 30.06.

Some of the locations of others of the patrol cabins are as follows: the Enos Lake cabin was on the southwest end of Enos Lake, probably about one-quarter of a mile from the lake

shore. The Two Ocean Pass patrol cabin sat right in the pass and on the west side of the trail probably a hundred feet from Two Ocean Creek. There was an old cabin, in excellent shape on the cutoff trail that went from the south fork of the Buffalo River to the north fork of the Buffalo River trail. This cutoff trail crossed a bridge that was on the south fork of the Buffalo River across a deep chasm. We had several old ladders that led down to a ledge in the river. It was excellent fishing at the foot of these ladders and each time we made a trip through that country we would ordinarily stop and fish a half hour or so.

Another cabin was near the mouth of Soda Fork, in very good shape, with a real good horse pasture in connection with it. This cabin was located only a short ride from the end of the road so we often times used it when we were leaving the station late in the day. The Brown's Park cabin was located on the southwest edge of the meadow and though it was in pretty poor shape it was still habitable. The cabin on Gravel Creek was somewhere near the forks of Whetstone Creek and Gravel Creek. It was a pretty rough old cabin but it also was habitable. The cabin located on the north side of Fox Park was a good cabin and very usable. All of the old cabins had large old-time flour drums in them, and most were always well stocked with dry foods, such as macaroni, beans, tea, etc. There was another old cabin that we often used as a patrol cabin on the Thorofare River. It was also known as the Hammel Cabin. Its construction was in the early 40's and was an illegal occupancy construction, but remained there and was utilized by the Forest Service. The dates on the other cabins is unknown but I suspect the Enos Lake cabin was built by the CCC's during the 30's, along with the cabin along the mouth of Soda Fork.

You asked about the construction dates on Huckleberry Lookout and Rosey's house which have now been nominated to the Historical Register. I am sorry but I do not know the dates on either one of these locations. I have always had some confusion as to just exactly what building has been designated as Rosey's House. At the time I was on the District, the old Ranger Station, which I am sure was the building that was in present use or in use at that time as the Ranger Station. However, there was a small log house located to the north and east which was often pointed out and understood that it had been built by Rosey and was the first Ranger Station occupied on the District. The old Ranger Station was used by Bill Daniels in the wintertime, when he remained at the Black Rock Station to feed elk. One winter, 1951 I believe, Bill was staying in the Ranger Station and had Pete Fuez and Andy Ables staying with him. During the middle of the winter Pete and Andy talked Bill into going into town to the old-timer's dance and celebration. They remained in town longer than planned and by the time they returned to Black Rock the following morning the hot water heater and the pipes were frozen. They didn't realize this and so Bill and Pete built a fire in the kitchen stove while him and Andy went out and loaded hay for the elk. After Pete got the fire started he joined Bill feeding elk. They heard a loud explosion and rushed back to the house and discovered that the stove had blown up as a result of the frozen hot water tank. The stove was completely demolished and scrap iron was scattered all over the kitchen, causing considerable damage to the building in addition putting soot and ashes throughout the entire house. One of the stove lids blew off at the same angle as the roof and right today you should still be able to see the imprint of that perfectly round stove lid in the sheeting on the ceiling. We made the Fish and Game Department furnish a

new stove and under our agreement with the Department on Bill using the cabin, we forced them to wash the entire house before springtime.

In those days on that District and most other Districts in the Forest Service, if a Ranger needed new signs, toilet buildings, etc., they were ordinarily constructed during the wintertime and placed out on the District the following year. At Black Rock we had about 50 head of moose that would come in each winter, and these were fed alfalfa hay by Bill Daniels. Ordinarily the moose would begin to gather around the first of December and just shortly after their arrival at Black Rock they would ordinarily drop their antlers. Gathering these antlers would be part of the cleanup job in the spring that the Fish and Game Department people were responsible for at that location. We had a considerable pile of moose antlers, ranging all the way from small pans to extremely large antlers. Bill Daniels and I got the idea of using these antlers to make sign boards, for placement in the Teton Wilderness area. The antlers were sunbleached, and then we would lay out stencils on the antlers and paint the letters and mileages on the antlers in green paint. The paint would be absorbed into the pores of the antlers and remained in good shape for considerable period of time. We would use the large antlers for several lines of signs and the small antlers for individual names, which as Enos Lake, etc. We would drill holes in the antlers and then in the summer, we would cut posts in place and bolt the antlers to the posts with lag bolts. They made extremely attractive signs and were very much in place in the Teton Wilderness area. However, on a GII inspection, by Tom VanMeter in 1951, we were very emphatically told that we were violating the Wilderness Area sign policy by utilizing antlers for signs and we received very definite instructions that they would be removed. I doubt if any of those old relic signs even remain now, but I have always felt it was an excellent idea for signing in the Wilderness Area.

The originals of the xerox's are in much better shape and usable than the copies, so any or all that you want are available. Or if you want, I will send the originals and you can select from them.

Hope to be of help.

Val Simpson

